



MEDICAL MINUTE

Vol. 2, No. 5

Serving the members of Tripler Army Medical Center and Pacific Regional Medical Command

May 2001

91W transition under way at Tripler

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) 91B (Medical Specialist) and 91C (Practical Nurse) will officially merge Oct. 1 to form the second largest MOS in the U.S. Army — 91W (Healthcare Specialist).

With the new MOS also comes new requirements for soldiers transitioning into 91W, and Tripler Army Medical Center is taking steps to ensure soldiers get the training needed to become fully qualified in the new specialty.

Sgt. 1st Class Philip Sloss, NCOIC of Tripler's Directorate of Health Education and Training (DOHET), said the new MOS came about as a way to keep medics in tune with the ever-evolving Army.

"In the past 10 years, the military has been geared more toward peacekeeping missions, where medics may face situations they have not been trained for," he said. "The new MOS requires additional skills training and sustainment training which

is tracked to keep medics current at all times."

In order to complete the 91W transition, medical specialists and practical nurses must meet either of the following criteria:

- * Receive National Registry Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate (NREMT-I) or NREMT-Paramedic certification.

- * Receive NREMT-Basic certification; attend either a Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) advanced provider course; and either attain a licensed vocational/practical nurse license, graduate from the Basic NCO Course 10-week medical track or complete the Trauma AIMS (advanced airway, IV therapy, medications and pharmacology, and shock management) course.

Soldiers that are promotable sergeants first class or above will "grandfather" into the new MOS and not require further training. All other soldiers will have a Y2 additional skill identifier until they have completed the transition requirements, which should

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U.S. Army photo

OPEN WIDE

Dr. Mary Dubiel, a veterinarian working at the Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility, administers oral deworming medication during a pet's visit.

The U.S. Veterinary Corps will celebrate its 85th anniversary this June. Pacific Regional Veterinary Command personnel will celebrate the anniversary June 4 with a celebration at 2 p.m. in the Kyser Conference Room.

To take a look at the Vet Corps' distinguished history and their mission today, check out page 6.

PRVC vets visit Mongolia

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

While the world watched as European nations tried to control a foot and mouth disease outbreak this spring, a team of U.S. Army Veterinary Command personnel joined in the struggle to fight the same dreaded disease a continent away in Mongolia.

At the request of the U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, the U.S. Army Pacific Command tasked four veterinary personnel to join two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) experts in providing advice and assistance to the Mongolians.

The team, which was deployed March 21-April 7, consisted of three Pacific Regional Veterinary Command (PRVC) soldiers: Lt. Col. Bob Walters, commander of the Japan District

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FEEDBACK

A place to voice your opinion
What military member from the past or present do you look up to the most?



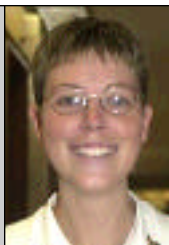
Monica Leach, certified nurse's assistant, 6C1 — "I look up to Staff Sgt. Brian Green (wardmaster 6C1) because he deals with a lot of pressure and ordeals all at once."

Staff Sgt. Paul O'Neil, Physical Therapy Clinic — "I look up to Capt. Harry Truman. During WWI, his battery didn't suffer any casualties. That's quite an accomplishment."



Sgt. 1st Class Rita M. Jones, NCOIC of Respiratory Care — "I look up to Retired Gen. Colin Powell. He overcame his humble beginnings to become an inspiration to all black Americans."

2nd Lt. Tara Ross, staff nurse, 6C1 — "I look up to my father for his service in Vietnam."



Deidre Garcia, CNA, 6C1 — "I look up to 2nd Lt. Reynaldo Garcia, who was in the Marine Corps. He was a great hero to me and my children."

EDITORIAL

Anthrax: Vaccine is safe, effective means of protecting soldiers

Lance Golder
Pacific Anthrax Program Coordinator

Let me start off by writing that Anthrax used as a biological weapon is a grave and urgent threat to the U.S. Armed Forces. There are at least seven countries, several of which are antagonistic towards the United States, which have the capability of or have weaponized anthrax.

I know you have heard lots of things about the anthrax vaccine. The unfortunate part is that there is a great deal of misinformation put out from people who have their own hidden agendas. The simple truth is we currently have a vaccine, licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is a safe and effective means of protecting service members from anthrax.

The National Institutes of Health (later the responsibility for licensing and oversight was transferred to the FDA) licensed the anthrax vaccine, officially called Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed (AVA), in 1970. In 1985, a FDA Advisory Panel re-affirmed the safety and efficacy of the anthrax vaccine. Several leading medical establishments have approved the anthrax vaccine. The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board endorsed the anthrax vaccine in 1990, 1994 and again in 1996.

Your safety is truly important to the Army leadership. That is why since 1993, the Department of Defense spent millions of dollars, consulted many organizations and agencies and did numerous studies on the Anthrax Vaccine, all to ensure the safety of the service member was assured.

Before the Anthrax immunization process could begin, the Secretary of Defense made it one of his mandatory requirements that all

lots be supplementally tested for safety, sterility, potency and purity. Supplemental testing repeats tests required by the FDA for lot release. An independent contractor (Mittek Systems) oversees supplemental testing by the manufacturer. If a lot fails in any of these tests, it is not used to vaccinate troops. To date, no lot of anthrax vaccine has ever left the plant without passing all the tests and receiving full FDA approval.

The DoD has even gone as far as to request outside agencies and individuals conduct independent reviews of our policies and procedures.

Thirteen human studies establish the safety profile of anthrax vaccine. One of these is an ongoing review conducted by the Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee. This committee is made up of civilian physicians (none of whom are affiliated with the DoD) convened by the Department of Health and Human Services to review

all reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) submitted to the FDA. To date this panel has identified no unexpected events from the anthrax vaccination program. Finally, we have also received endorsements on the safety and efficacy of the anthrax vaccine from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, civilian physicians advising the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

One of the concerns that we hear about from time to time is the claim that the vaccine has never been tested against aerosolized or inhalation anthrax. This assertion is not completely true. Due to the deadly nature of the disease, it would be unethical to conduct human studies.

See **ANTHRAX**, page 3



Medical Minute

<http://www.tamc.amedd.army.mil>

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ANTHRAX: Safety important to Army leaders

Continued from page 1

The only way to prove conclusively that the vaccine is effective against inhalational anthrax is to conduct a large, double blind study using vaccinated and unvaccinated subjects. The risk of death, if a subject contracted the infection, is too great to ever make that type of study feasible. Therefore, besides the Brachman Study, the research community has had to rely on primate and other animal studies to chart the effects of inhalation anthrax.

The Brachman study, conducted from 1955-1959, involved 1,249 wool mill workers in the Northeastern United States. Eighteen of the 21 cases of cutaneous anthrax came from the unvaccinated groups. Five (of which four were fatal) cases of inhalation anthrax occurred among 448 unvaccinated people while zero cases occurred among 149 fully vaccinated people. In primate studies (the closest approximation to humans) 95 percent of the monkeys tested survived an aerosol challenge. In five studies, 62 of 65 non-human primates vaccinated with the licensed anthrax vaccine survived a lethal aerosol dose of the bacteria. Although we would like to prove conclusively that the anthrax vaccine protects people against an aerosolized attack, barring further human studies, it is just not possible. We must rely on animal studies like the ones above. All the studies have shown that the vaccine is effective against aerosolized anthrax.

The simple truth is that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective.

All the studies that have been done, all the expert organizations and individuals that have reviewed the program all agree that this is a sound program. Does that mean you will not get a reaction when you get the shot, no. In fact, we know through studies like the one done here at Tripler, that approximately 30 percent of the men and 60 percent of the woman will experience some mild reaction, most commonly redness and soreness at the injection site. Significant events beyond the injection site occur in less than 1 percent of anthrax vaccine recipients.

These rates of adverse reactions are similar to those for other vaccines, including the generally mandatory childhood vaccines such as DTP (Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) and MMR (measles-mumps-rubella). Even now, the DoD is researching ways to reduce the reaction rate by looking at reducing the number of shots, changing the route of injection, and reducing the dose per shot.

The bottom line is that without the vaccine, we are knowingly putting our service members into harm's way. That is something no leader in good conscience can do.

Editor's Note: *Currently, due to the limited amount of FDA released Anthrax Vaccine available, DoD has further reduced consumption to Southwest Asia. This means only personnel assigned, deployed, or TDY as ground forces for 30 consecutive days or more will receive the anthrax vaccination. The only units in Hawaii currently receiving the vaccine are two naval units scheduled for deployment to Southwest Asia.*

CSM's Handshake of Concern



May
"Reducing
Medical
Errors"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

JNPSP nurse saves woman's life

On March 20, I received an urgent call from Ann Marie Seda, a nurse working with Tripler Army Medical Center's Joint New Parent Support Program. A 20 year-old, pregnant wife of a Coast Guardsman needed immediate help. The woman's husband, an E-7, was underway aboard the Coast Guard Cutter RUSH hundreds of miles from land and thousands of miles from his wife. As part of the New Parent Support Program, the nurse routinely checked in with women during pregnancy.

On March 20, that phone call probably saved a woman's life. The nurse could hear that the woman was weak. She was 10 weeks pregnant and had been suffering with hyper vomiting. She was so dizzy she could barely speak or stand up. Nurse Seda immediately called me and I immediately sent an ambulance.

One complication was that the woman

was from Columbia and spoke very little English. Nurse Seda used an Army interpreter for the telephone conversation, and she and the interpreter met the ambulance at the hospital.

I sent my Family Resource Specialist to the hospital and then enlisted the aid of the local spouse's association and ombudsmen to arrange post-hospital translation services and transportation to subsequent medical appointments.

All's well that end's well, but it shows how "operational" two "support" programs can be. The woman was badly dehydrated when she reached the hospital, but she recovered with intravenous fluids and the proper medical attention.

Nice work, Joint New Parent Support Program! The Coast Guard salutes you.

— Lt. Cmdr. Walt Wrzesniewski,
USCG
Work-Life Programs Supervisor
Integrated Support Command
Honolulu, Hawaii

“Lights, Camera, JCAHO ...”

TAMC works to reduce medical errors

Barbara Drejza
Risk Manager

The JCAHO theme for May is “reducing medical errors,” a fundamental aspect of the Tripler Army Medical Center Risk Management Program.

The American Society for Healthcare Risk Management defines risk management as “the process of making and carrying out decisions that will assist in prevention of adverse consequences and minimize the adverse effects of accidental losses upon an organization.” Note the emphasis on prevention? Unfortunately, in the past, the emphasis on risk management has tended to be reactive and focused on placing blame. Once something terrible happened, that’s when all sorts of action would take place to “prevent such a terrible thing from happening again” and to “point fingers.”

The soon-to-be implemented JCAHO patient safety standards have been created to create an environment in which error identification is emphasized and in which a proactive approach is taken to identify and address high-risk activities before errors happen. In such a safety-focused culture, the existence of risk is readily acknowledged, reporting of errors is encouraged, and prevention of harm to patients, staff and visitors is recognized as everyone’s responsibility.

At TAMC, staff are constantly looking at “better ways in which to do business,” and many facility initiatives have already

been undertaken to decrease medical errors. The following are just a few examples:

- * The addition of the Chief of Pharmacy as a member of the Risk Management Committee in April of 2000. On a monthly basis, COL Beaudoin briefs the RMC on the Type I, II and III medical errors which have occurred and the corrective actions which have been taken to reduce the errors.

- * In September of 2000, a physician representative from the Veterans Administration was added as a member to the RMC.

- * Due to an identified trend in patient falls on the medicine units in the March/April 2000 timeframe, the Chief, Department of Medicine, conducted a focused review of the incidents. Medicine units are now equipped with bed/chair activated alarms. The program was implemented in November 2000.

- * Based on identified problems with pediatric medication dosages, a Pediatric Medical Error Reduction plan was presented to the RMC in June of 2000. The plan included the requirement that all providers add weights to the CHCS order entry on all pediatric patients.

The new safety standards augment nearly 50 percent of current JCAHO standards related to patient safety. One of the requirements of the standards is the implementation of an integrated patient safety program. How this will be accomplished is yet to be determined at TAMC. With the implementation of the standards set for July 2001 and an upcoming survey in December, staff can be sure there will be many changes forthcoming.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

At left, Medical Lab Technician Pamela Bell, who is also a lab tech in the Army Reserve, processes specimens that tested positive for drugs in the Extraction Room.

Drug testing lab opens new extraction room

Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs Office

After more than five months of renovations, Tripler Army Medical Center’s Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory (FTDTL) officially opened its new Extraction Room April 26.

The room, which is used to separate and purify drugs from urine specimens, was renovated to consolidate the lab’s three extraction rooms into one large facility.

With the new room, the lab now has an increased capacity of 25 percent, said Lt. Col. Mark Bruins, FTDTL commander.

The Tripler FTDTL is one of six Department of Defense drug testing labs and tests about 65,000 specimens a month for as many as seven drugs to include marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and LSD.

Since 1985, the FTDTL has analyzed more than seven million specimens without reporting a false positive result, as identified by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology’s Quality Assurance program and retest samples.

The lab recently produced a video detailing the operations of the FTDTL from specimen collection to result reporting to educate commanders on the extensive procedures the lab follows to ensure accuracy.

For more information on the lab or to obtain a copy of the video, call 433-5176.



Courtesy photo

A farmer guides a herd of horses across Mongolia. The landlocked country recently battled foot and mouth disease.

MONGOLIA: Team helps contain foot, mouth disease

Continued from page 1

Veterinary Command; Capt. Jerry Cowart, OIC of the Schofield Barracks Veterinary Branch; and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Oldham, PRVC operations NCO. A fourth soldier, Lt. Col. Peggy Carter, was tasked from the Northwest District Veterinary Command at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Upon arrival to the landlocked nation, which is also one of the highest countries in the world, the team was off and running in their attempt to help corral the highly contagious disease.

One of the main missions the team assisted with were efforts to vaccinate livestock that had not yet been infected.

"We went to one of the local villages and vaccinated about 400 head (of cattle) in one day just going house to house," said Cowart.

Besides helping with the vaccination program, the U.S. team also assisted with the detection and destruction missions where infected livestock were identified and then humanely destroyed.

Although foot and mouth disease is rarely fatal by itself, Cowart said the disease is perhaps even more devastating to livestock in Mongolia because the harsh winters already take a toll on the animals.

"Mongolians usually lose a number of animals each year just due to the severe winters. During the winter, these animals are already taking everything they have to be able to eat enough and maintain body weight," he said. "Then you throw in a disease like foot and mouth disease, which causes blisters in their mouth and around their hooves so they don't want to get up and graze. And that just adds to it."

In addition to having a devastating effect on livestock, the communicable disease also began damaging the country economically.

"Most of the country's gross national products are agricultural types of items so when they have a foot and mouth disease out-



Courtesy photo

While in Mongolia, the Pacific Regional Veterinary Command team assisted with vaccinating livestock, which protected them from the dreaded foot and mouth disease.

break, Russia and China don't want to import meat, hides or other animal products," said Cowart, who added that the U.S. team also examined customs operations. "We looked into how they could possibly work out agreements to be able to export animal products."

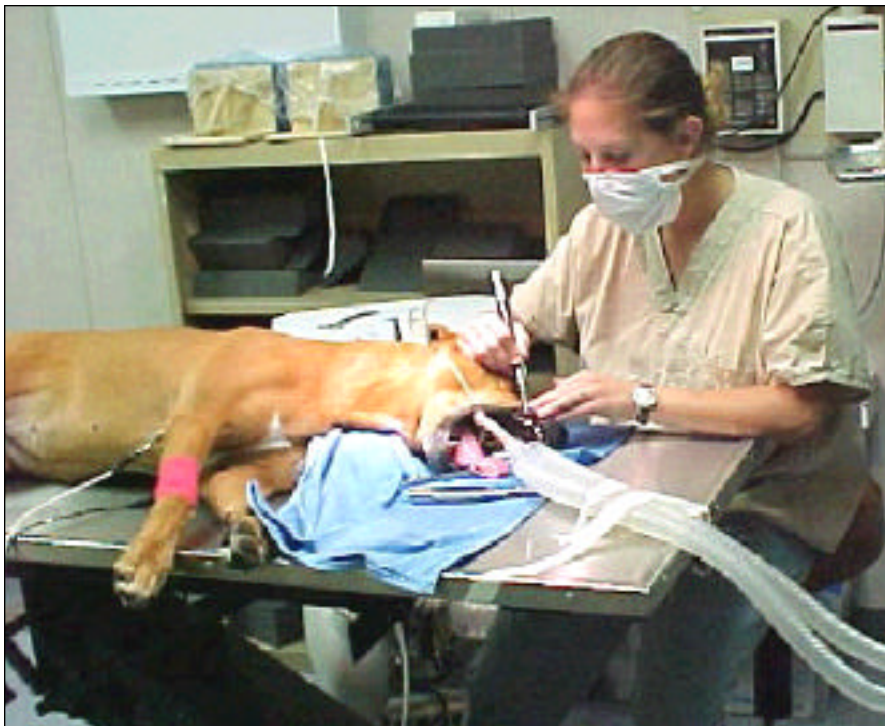
While Mongolia couldn't export raw hides during the outbreak, Cowart said the U.S. team recommended the Mongolians tan the hides, a process which kills the virus.

"You see it on the news, but to be intimately involved and see how this disease affects the animals, the people who live in the area and the country is a completely different picture," Cowart said.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Sgt. Otis Hill, a food inspector at Schofield Barracks, checks MRE lot numbers.



U.S. Army photo

Spec. Jaynee Desmond, an animal care technician, cleans a dog's teeth.

Vet Corps celebrates 85th anniversary

Master Sgt. Theresa Djoken

Central Pacific District Veterinary Command

The U.S. Army Veterinary Corps will celebrate its 85th anniversary June 4.

While the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps was established June 3, 1916, a need for veterinary expertise has been growing since Gen. George Washington directed that a "regiment of horses with a farrier" be raised to support the military in 1776.

Later during the Civil War, War Department General Orders provided each Cavalry regiment with a veterinary surgeon in the rank of regimental sergeant major, who received pay in the amount of \$75 a month. Further recognition of the need for veterinarians evolved after the Civil War concluded.

In the 1890s, veterinarians were being used to inspect meat, poultry and dairy products destined for frontier posts. A strong academic background in microbiology, epidemiology, pathology and public health has made veterinarians ideally suited for a role in ensuring wholesomeness of food.

In the early 1900s, the American Veterinary Medical Association and numerous individuals began actively supporting legislation directed toward the

The Pacific Regional Veterinary Command and Central Pacific District Veterinary Command will celebrate the anniversary June 4 at 2 p.m. in Tripler's Kyser Conference Room. The celebration will include a slide show, guest speaker and cake-cutting ceremony.

establishment of an Army Veterinary Corps. Finally, veterinary officer commissioning became a reality in 1916.

When war was declared in April 1917, there were 57 veterinarians working for the Army, primarily in the area of equine medicine and surgery. Eighty-four years later, the Corps has expanded to include 415 officers, 67 warrant officers and 1,424 enlisted soldiers.

During the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the emphasis in military veterinary medicine was shifting away from horses and mules to military working dogs, civic action programs in the local environments (herd health, vaccinations, production advice) and increased food sanitation. Additionally, veterinary specialization began during this time and an increasing percentage of military veterinarians became board-certified specialists. Biomedical research, aviation and space

medicine also saw military veterinarians as part of these teams.

In Desert Storm, Army veterinarians and technicians ensured the health of military working dogs, assisted with host-nation related animal emergencies, and performed inspections on the local food supply. A significant aspect of the Desert Storm conflict is that, for the first time in the history of the Veterinary Service, large numbers of Reserve Component Veterinary Service personnel and units were successfully mobilized and deployed to Southwest Asia, Europe and within the U.S.

The U.S. Army Veterinary service includes officers, warrant officers, enlisted and civilian personnel. Their participation in U.S. conflicts to include both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and other engagements, has been an essential element in the maintenance of the health and well-being of both animals and soldiers. Throughout the years, in addition to "field" contributions, there has been a superb record of Veterinary Corps achievements in the arenas of basic and applied research focused on soldier needs.

Support of overseas conventional contingencies has reached a new level of

See VET, page 7



U.S. Army photo

Spc. Jaynee Desmond and Sgt. 1st Class Rachel Goeckeritz prepare to transport a dolphin.

VETS: Ensure health

Continued from page 1

importance. Recently organized deployable veterinary units under the U.S. Forces Command have proved invaluable in diverse environments working with multinational forces. These veterinary commands placed personnel in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo with the arrival of the first U.S. Forces.

In recent years, the Veterinary Service was called upon to support other humanitarian relief efforts both overseas and within the continental U.S. Veterinarians supervised the U.S. Air Force's efforts to evacuate privately owned pets from Clark Air Force Base in the Phillipines after the Mount Pinatubo's eruption in 1991. Veterinary Service personnel have also supported relief operations associated with hurricanes Andrew, Iniki, Omar, Marilyn and Mitch; earthquakes on the West Coast and the Western Pacific; and flood relief in the Midwest.

At home, military veterinary personnel oversee the operation of ration assembly plants, supply and distribution points, ports of debarkation, commissaries and other types of subsistence operations to ensure safe, wholesome food for servicemembers and their families. In the area of animal medicine, Veterinary Service personnel provide medical care to Military Working Dogs, other government agency animals and privately owned animals.

Veterinary Service personnel are also involved in medical research and development missions have contributed immeasurably to the overall military effort. The developments of vaccines, antitoxins and antidotes, which may save the lives of military personnel, continue to rely heavily on military veterinary expertise.

The U.S. Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM) was fully activated on Oct. 2, 1994 as a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM). VETCOM headquarters was created out of the former Directorate of Veterinary Services, U.S. Army Health Services Command and is the senior headquarters for about 35 percent of United States Army veterinarians worldwide. The Pacific Regional Veterinary Command and Central Pacific District Veterinary Command, which are subordinate commands to VETCOM, reside on the island of Oahu to support the Pacific Rim.

The Veterinary Service continues its proud military traditions



U.S. Army photo

A need for veterinary expertise has been growing since 1776 when Washington raised a regiment of horses.



U.S. Army photo

Spc. Mark Banta, a food inspector, inspects shipments of produce at one of Oahu's Commissaries.

by shaping and preparing for the future through strategic planning. These planning efforts key on readiness through team-building and customer-focused service. Accomplishing its broad functions in areas of food safety and quality assurance, animal medical/surgery, biomedical research and development, and veterinary preventive medicine and public health will continue as crucial elements contributing to the readiness of military forces.

Tripler nurse volunteers time at ACS youth camp

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

While many people spend their days off relaxing or attending to personal business, one Tripler Army Medical Center staff member recently gave up a few of her days off to help make a difference for a group of special young adults.

2nd Lt. Lisa Horak, a clinical staff nurse on Tripler's medical/oncology ward (6C1), recently volunteered March 28-31 at Camp Ikaika, an American Cancer Society camp for young adults ages 14-21 who are facing or have survived cancer.

"The kids are so amazing and full of life," said Horak, who was told about the camp from a coworker. "She asked if I wanted to help out, and I had the days off so I said yes."

Unlike a traditional summer camp, Horak said having a good time was only a part of what Camp Ikaika was all about.

"It's a chance for kids to talk about having cancer with other kids that are in the same situation," she said. "Many of them have lost friends over the years so one activity was about dealing with loss."

The camp wasn't all business though as campers tackled a series of activities, which helped enhance self-development and confidence such as a low and high rope obstacle course.

"It was such a great experience," said



Horak

Horak, who said it was also a very different experience. "We see a lot of children in the hospital who are very sick with cancer. It was a chance to see kids out living with cancer and even beating it."

After spending only four days with the children, Horak said she knew helping out with the camps was something she would like to continue in the future. In fact, the lieutenant has also volunteered to be a counselor during ACS's Camp Anuenue June 8-16.

"Camp Anuenue is a week-long chance for these kids to get out and do things like healthy kids," said Horak, who added the camp will include a lot of outdoor activities and even a prom-type dance. "All the kids were telling me how much fun it is, and that I had to be there. I can't wait."

While Horak eagerly agreed to volunteer for the second camp, Camp Anuenue Co-director Dr. Patricia Nishimoto, an oncology nurse at Tripler, said more volunteers are needed in order to make the camp a success.

"We could use lifeguards. They need to have a current license and be at least 21 years of age," said Nishimoto, who added that the lifeguards can volunteer for one



Courtesy photo

A group of campers and counselors take on an obstacle course.

day, a couple days or the entire camp.

Nishimoto said camp counselors are also needed, but they must be available from June 8-16 and be at least 21 years old. She also added that volunteers should be able to go long hours with little sleep and keep their sense of humor.

Horak said she knows getting the time off may be a problem for many, but hopes more people will make the commitment.

"You must be willing to come out for the whole camp," she said. "The kids are counting on you, and you have to be there for them."

Those who are interested in volunteering for the upcoming camp, should call Debra Glowik of American Cancer Society at 595-7500. Volunteers will then be sent an application packet which will include a request for two letters of recommendation and a health exam.

MERIT BADGE

Col. (Dr.) Muhammad Rahman, Tripler's Pathology chief, explains autopsy procedures to a group of Boy Scouts. About 20 scouts of Troop 223 of Kailua toured Tripler Army Medical Center April 13 as a requirement to earn their medical merit badge. Colonels Dale and Judy Vincent volunteered as advisors to the scouts working on the badge.



Suzan Holl



Sgt. David Henderson

Jill Godding (center) and Karla, Taylor and Caitlin Henderson take time out in one of Kidsports' play areas during the Family Practice Clinic activity.

Schofield Family Practice Clinic rekindles meaning of primary care

Maj. (Dr.) Nick Piantanida
Schofield Barracks Family Practice Clinic

Primary care practice can be both an enriching source of personal growth and meaning and an unmerciful and depleting taskmaster.

The Schofield Barracks Family Practice Clinic has all the challenges of a busy outpatient clinic environment with its 11 providers and 26 support staff delivering primary care at a rate of 19 – 25 patients per provider per day. There is a delicate balance each staff member strikes between their own enrichment or “joy of delivering meaningful care” and the physical and emotional depletion that such fast-paced care collects each day.

The provider group and support staff have joined together to create a new committee to provide a format in which healthcare staff can engage in supportive dialogue and activities that reinforce a sense of meaning in their work and rekindle their deep commitment to caring for others.

This program is named “Caring for the Caregivers” and is managed by Dr. Ralph Hartman. Meetings are held once a month during the lunch hour, and weekend events are planned quarterly. The objectives of the committee centralize on applying group communication to educate providers and staff on how to control stress by making their practices rewarding and balancing personal and professional responsibilities.



Maj. Nick Piantanida

Brandon Weeks takes a trip down the slide during the festivities.

The committee held its first event April 14 at the Kidsports Fun and Fitness Center on Hickam Air Force Base. The gathering brought over 30 adults and 25 kids together for a two-hour “play session.” The theme was “Easter Celebration” and the Easter Bunny “hopped-in” for some added fun. The clinic families shared introductions and fellowship over games and a noon meal. Moral support events like this are planned for once a quarter and are funded by individual staff donations and special project resources through the Henry Jackson Fund.

91W: Tripler offers courses

Continued from page 1

be accomplished by 2004. The soldiers will then also have to recertify every two years for the NREMT and complete required continuing education training.

Although the MOS change doesn't occur for a few more months, Tripler partnered with the 25th Infantry Division (Light) to begin preparing for the transition last year. Classes needed for transition are currently offered at Tripler and Schofield Barracks sites.

The courses offered include the four-week NREMT-B course, three-day PHTLS course, and Trauma AIMS, a 68-hour course aimed at junior soldiers who have not yet attended BNCOC. A PHTLS Instructor course and NREMT-B recertification class are also offered in addition to an EMT-Bridge course.

“The EMT-Bridge course is an accelerated course for mainly senior NCOs who have already gone through BNCOC or previously held EMT certifications,” said Sloss. He added that the two-week course, which is taught at the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic, is actually a pilot program from the Army Medical Department Center and School. “We are only the second location in the Army to offer this course,” he said.

So far, more than 500 of the soon-to-be 91Ws on island have been through training in emergency medical courses offered by Tripler. Although the courses are open to the other services as well as Honolulu Fire Department employees, active duty soldiers currently have priority for openings.

While 91W soldiers have another three years to complete the transition requirements, Sloss said soldiers should be proactive in getting the training they need as soon as it is possible for them to do so.

“The best thing to do is to get with your supervisor and figure out a class date when your section will be able to release you for the course you need,” said Sloss, who added that class dates and sign-up are listed on the Tripler intranet under Training. The site also offers links to other 91W transition web sites and lists course information.

For more information on the transition, checkout Tripler's 91W transition site on the intranet or go to www.cs.amedd.army.mil/91W. DOHET's 91WTransition Section is also available at 433-4706 or 433-2549.

Family member receives Youth of Year honor

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor

APacific Regional Medical Command family member was selected as the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year for Hawaii April 16 during a competition at Hickam Air Force Base's Youth Services Center.

Seventeen-year-old Angela Graben, daughter of Marie and PRMC Operations Sergeant Major John Graben, will now advance to the regional Boys and Girls Club competition this June in California.

During the competition, participants were judged on three areas: a 2-3 minute speech on what the club means to them, 15-minute interview session and a packet of completed essay questions.

"I was shocked," said the Radford High School senior of the win. In addition to earning a trip to the regionals, Graben also earned scholarship money, which she plans to put to use this fall when she begins her freshman year at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis.

Although she is eager to begin college, Graben said she will miss the club where she has spent much of the past four years.

"The club is a part of my life just as family and school are," she said. "It's not just a club anymore; it's like a second home."

Graben said the Boys and Girls Club, which promotes service, learning and leadership, had become especially impor-

tant to her now that she's an advisor.

"As an advisor, I get to teach and mentor the younger club members," she said. "That's one of the best things I get to do."

Despite attending high school, preparing for college and holding down a part-time job as a lifeguard at the Tripler Pool, Graben said she still makes time for the club even though it might not be as much time as she would like.

"This year I've been applying to schools so I haven't been around as much," said Graben, who spends about 10 hours a week at the club. "It just depends on what's going on. Sometimes I spend all day and night there."

Graben said she will probably be spending more time at the club these next few weeks as the club prepares for the annual U.S. Army, Hawaii (USARHAW) Army Family Action Plan conference in May. The club, which operates out of both Schofield Barracks' and Aliamanu Military Reservation's Teen Centers, designs logos, graphics and other materials for the conference as well as provides delegates to discuss teen issues.

In addition to serving as a teen delegate at the USARHAW AFAP conference, Graben has also gone on to represent the local installation at both major command-level and Department of the Army-level conferences.

Through her work with the club,



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

In addition to participating in the Boys and Girls Club, Angela Graben also works part time at the Tripler pool.

Graben has been recognized for her contributions to the community including being recognized as the U.S. Army Hawaii Volunteer of Merit in 1999.

"Angela is a young lady, who is very dependable, up front and morally straight," said Sandy Salisbury, coordinating director of Teen 2000, a Child and Youth Services program, which oversees the Boys and Girls Club. "We are very proud of her and glad to have her as a role model for other teens."

Phased fielding of berets to continue into November

Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

Not all soldiers will don black berets June 14, officials said, adding that a phased fielding of the headgear will continue into November.

The delay in fielding some berets is due to three companies defaulting on their beret delivery, officials said, and a policy decision not to issue berets produced in China.

"The Army chief of staff has determined that U.S. troops shall not wear berets made in China or berets made with Chinese content," said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz in a statement May 1. "Therefore, I direct the Army and the Defense Logistics Agency to take appropriate action to recall previously distributed berets and dispose of the stock."

An order for about 618,000 black berets had been contracted to a British firm, Kangol Limited, that subcontracted to produce the berets at a factory in China. About half of those berets have

already been delivered, officials said, but most have not yet been issued to soldiers. Those berets will be recalled and sold as surplus through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, according to a DLA spokesperson.

In addition, three contracts were canceled this week with U.S. companies that had beret factories in Romania, South Africa and India. "Quality was one of the issues," said a DLA spokesperson about terminating the contracts April 30.

Priority for fielding in the active component will go to large stateside installations with deployable units, Hilton said, and also to the Recruiting Command and the National Capital Region. He said a number of Army Reserve and National Guard units will also receive the berets prior to June 14.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced in October that soldiers would begin wearing black berets on the Army's birthday, June 14, as a symbol of the Army's transformation to a lighter, more-deployable force.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Mother's Day, Memorial Day share common threads

Chaplain (Capt.) Albert Ghergich
Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care

The month of May brings us two very special days of remembrance and honor —Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Interestingly, these holidays share common threads since both are the product of war and military service and the result of the noble efforts of several dedicated women.

It was Julia Ward Howe, the songwriter of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," who first suggested the idea of Mother's Day in the United States in 1872. Howe championed the idea of Mother's Day as being a day of peace. Ann Jarvis, who is credited with the "official" observance of Mother's Day, followed Howe's intent by organizing "Mother's Friendship Days," in the late 19th century as a way to heal the old wounds caused by the Civil War. Through her efforts, President Wilson in 1914, declared Mother's Day to be a National Holiday to be held on the second Sunday of May. Early on, Mother's Day was closely linked to the honoring of "War Mothers"—those who had lost children in military service.

Memorial Day, likewise, owes its roots to women honoring their fallen loved ones. The earliest "organized" observances in the U.S., are attributed to women's groups in the South. The hymn "Kneel Where Our Loved Ones are Sleeping" published

in 1862, is dedicated to "The ladies of the South who are decorating the graves of the Confederate dead." General John Logan ordered that flowers be placed on Union and Confederate graves at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868. The South, however, refused to acknowledge the day. It was not until after World War I, and the efforts of Howe and Jarvis took root, that Union and Confederate families joined together to honor their loved ones.

Perhaps it is only natural that Mother's Day and Memorial Day should be so closely related. After all, Mothers uniquely understand the true cost and pain of war. This Mother's Day let us honor the mothers throughout history that have given their sons and daughters in the service of their country. This Memorial Day let us honor our fallen comrades and the mothers who deeply grieved their loss.

Chapel Worship Services

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! During the month of May, due to renovations, Chapel Worship Services are relocated.

Catholic Services Daily (M-F) — Noon, Meditation Chapel, 6A
Saturday — 5 p.m., Keyser Auditorium
Sunday — 11 a.m., Kyser Auditorium

Protestant Services Sunday — 9 a.m., Kyser Auditorium

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Promotions

Master Sgt. Francis Labuda
Master Sgt. Jennifer Long
Sgt. 1st Class Charles Paige

Re-enlistments

Spc. Santos Quesada
Spc. Cynthia Kinsey
Sgt. 1st Class Mario Levy
Spc. Al Pellas
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Johnson
Spc. Ray Allen
Sgt. Harnes Mitchell
Staff Sgt. Charles Marshall
Sgt. Alexander Robair
Spc. John Roach
Sgt. Kimberly Williams
Spc. Kenyetta Spencer

Awards

Netty Auxer - 25-year service pin
Harvey D. Leighnor - 25-year pin
Pamela Bell - 15-year pin
Rose Christie - 15-year pin
Patrick Galvan - 15-year pin

Teresa Kim - 15-year pin
Sharon Nip - 15-year pin
John Novosel - 15-year pin
Audrey Parish - 15-year pin
Ardis Thompson - 15-year pin
Milagros R. Myers - 10-year pin
Bernadette Thompson - 10-year pin
Yvette Villalobos - 10-year pin
Loretta M. Zahner - 10-year pin
Lt. Col. Randolph Howard - Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal
Lt. Col. Michael Brumage - MSM
Lt. Col. Joel Fishbain - MSM
Lt. Col. Duane Hospenthal - MSM
Maj. John Byers - MSM
Master Sgt. Trevor Flemming - MSM
Sgt. 1st Class Barry Davis - MSM
Staff Sgt. Bobby Cunningham - MSM



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

A test of strength

During the Occupational Therapy Clinic's Open House April 18, Maj. Lawrence B. Connell, Pacific Regional Medical Command operations officer, tests his strength as OT staff members look on. The open house was held in celebration of Occupational Therapy Month.

The Department of Pathology and Area Lab Services also held an open house the same day to celebrate National Laboratory Week April 15-21.

NEWS BRIEFS

Tripler staff can try out

PacMedNet — For Tripler staff who need a consolidated patient record that combines Patient History Record Data from the Department of Veteran's Affairs Honolulu VistAand Tripler Army Medical Center's CHCS, the Pacific Medical Network (PacMedNet) may be just what they need.

Tripler and the VA are currently testing an application developed by the Pacific e-Health Innovation Center. By participating, healthcare providers and administrators can help test the new application and provide comprehensive care to veterans.

Prior to using the applications, interested staff members will need to schedule an appointment for training with the P-eIC clinical representative or project manager. Training typically takes 30-45 minutes. The trainers prefer one-on-one training or small groups to allow everyone hands-on during the training session.

For more information, call Jackie Shishido at 433-7354 or Clyde Hladky at 433-7374.

Military camp offers tour packages — Nestled high atop the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) may be one of the Big Island's best-kept secrets.

KMC, a Joint Services Recreation Center, is open to all active duty and retired military, Reserve and National Guard members, current and retired Department of Defense civilian employees, dependents and sponsored guests.

Visitors can enjoy cabins with fireplaces, lounge, recreation lodge, weight room, golf course, theater and chapel.

KMC also offers special tour packages that includes lodging, tours, meals and shuttle service.

For more information, call 438-6707 or check out www.kmc-volcano.com.

TAMC Chapel undergoes renovations — The TAMC Chapel is scheduled for renovations through June 4.

Catholic Mass and Protestant Services will be held in the Kyser Auditorium on the first floor.

For more information, call 433-5727.



Easter fun

More than 200 children of Tripler and Department of Veterans Affairs employees gathered on Tripler Hill April 11 for an Easter Egg Hunt. The festivities were sponsored by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. In addition to edible treats, a clown was also on hand to give out animal balloons and paint children's faces.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Military Appreciation Week set

TAMC Public Affairs Office

From May 17-23, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii will host its annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Week (HMAW) with a variety of events and discounts as a thanks to service members and their families serving their nation on the island of Oahu.

All events and discounts are sponsored by a variety of island corporations. Details on the below-noted Calendar of Events are online at www.pacom.mil/staff/maw/index.html

Discount flyers, brochures and the official "HMAW Coupon Book" will be available in May.

Calendar of Events

May 15 — YMCA "Five Star Salute" to junior enlisted (By invitation)

May 17, 6 p.m. — Opening Ceremony, dockside at the USS Missouri.

May 19, 7 p.m. — Combined Military Band Concert, Hawaii Theatre. Free tickets to the concert can be obtained through the Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks ITR Office. Tickets are first come, first

serve.

May 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — "Living History Day" at Hawaii Army Museum at Ft DeRussy. There will be hands-on presentations and exhibits of weapons, equipment and more.

May 19 — 5th Annual Triathlon/Duathlon at MCBH, aircraft exhibits. For more information, call Maj. Bob Krekel at 257-0076.

May 19 — Military Night at the Polynesian Cultural Center, discounted tickets are available at ITR offices.

May 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — "A Capital Day Down Capitol Way 2001" Free tours of the Mission House Museum, Honolulu Academy of Arts and more.

May 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Family Sunday Island Style-Military Day at Bishop Museum.

May 21 — Military Night at Hale Koa Luau Dinner Show. Discounted tickets are available at ITR offices.

May 26 — Border's Books & Music (Ward Ctr & Waikale) 20% off to all military on books, music or videos.